

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0907

December 18, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Atwater
State Senator, District 25
The Florida Senate
P.O. Box 14366
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Dear Senator Atwater:

The federal government spends without regard to our ability to pay for it, passes unfunded mandates onto the states, and little, if any, attention is paid to tax receipts when deciding how much to spend. At a time when inflation is essentially zero, Congress is approving spending bills that increase spending by double-digit percentages over last year's levels. In just the first two months of this fiscal year, October and November, the U.S. took in \$268.9 billion in tax revenue and spent more than double that amount, \$565.6 billion. According to White House estimates, by 2019 our current \$12 trillion national debt is expected to more than double to a staggering \$24.5 trillion.

For these reasons, I have introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring the federal government to balance its budget and giving the President of the United States the power of a line-item veto. States must work diligently to balance their budgets and I believe the federal government should also live within its means. Similarly, the line-item veto is used by 43 governors to restrain spending, yet federal appropriations bills are often sent to the President loaded with extraneous and wasteful earmarks.

The attached constitutional amendment (S. J. Res. 22) would require a balanced budget in each fiscal year unless a two-thirds majority of each chamber of Congress agrees to a specified amount of deficit spending. However, when the nation is in military conflict, the waiver to allow deficit spending would be a simple majority. The amendment also gives the President the power of line-item veto.

I hope you will join me in addressing our nation's fiscal problems by passing a resolution urging your congressional delegation to support this constitutional amendment so the measure can pass Congress and be sent to the states for ratification.

Sincerely,



George S. LeMieux
United States Senator

GL/sjw

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0907

December 18, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor
The State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

The federal government spends without regard to our ability to pay for it, passes unfunded mandates onto the states, and little, if any, attention is paid to tax receipts when deciding how much to spend. At a time when inflation is essentially zero, Congress is approving spending bills that increase spending by double-digit percentages over last year's levels. In just the first two months of this fiscal year, October and November, the U.S. took in \$268.9 billion in tax revenue and spent more than double that amount, \$565.6 billion. According to White House estimates, by 2019 our current \$12 trillion national debt is expected to more than double to a staggering \$24.5 trillion.

For these reasons, I have introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring the federal government to balance its budget and giving the President of the United States the power of a line-item veto. States must work diligently to balance their budgets and I believe the federal government should also live within its means. Similarly, the line-item veto is used by 43 governors to restrain spending, yet federal appropriations bills are often sent to the President loaded with extraneous and wasteful earmarks.

The attached constitutional amendment (S. J. Res. 22) would require a balanced budget in each fiscal year unless a two-thirds majority of each chamber of Congress agrees to a specified amount of deficit spending. However, when the nation is in military conflict, the waiver to allow deficit spending would be a simple majority. The amendment also gives the President the power of line-item veto.

I hope you will join me in addressing our nation's fiscal problems by passing a resolution urging your congressional delegation to support this constitutional amendment so the measure can pass Congress and be sent to the states for ratification.

Sincerely,



George S. LeMieux
United States Senator

GL/sjw

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0907

December 18, 2009

The Honorable Larry Cretul
State Representative, District 22
The Florida House Of Representatives
308 House Office Bldg., 402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Cretul:

The federal government spends without regard to our ability to pay for it, passes unfunded mandates onto the states, and little, if any, attention is paid to tax receipts when deciding how much to spend. At a time when inflation is essentially zero, Congress is approving spending bills that increase spending by double-digit percentages over last year's levels. In just the first two months of this fiscal year, October and November, the U.S. took in \$268.9 billion in tax revenue and spent more than double that amount, \$565.6 billion. According to White House estimates, by 2019 our current \$12 trillion national debt is expected to more than double to a staggering \$24.5 trillion.

For these reasons, I have introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring the federal government to balance its budget and giving the President of the United States the power of a line-item veto. States must work diligently to balance their budgets and I believe the federal government should also live within its means. Similarly, the line-item veto is used by 43 governors to restrain spending, yet federal appropriations bills are often sent to the President loaded with extraneous and wasteful earmarks.

The attached constitutional amendment (S. J. Res. 22) would require a balanced budget in each fiscal year unless a two-thirds majority of each chamber of Congress agrees to a specified amount of deficit spending. However, when the nation is in military conflict, the waiver to allow deficit spending would be a simple majority. The amendment also gives the President the power of line-item veto.

I hope you will join me in addressing our nation's fiscal problems by passing a resolution urging your congressional delegation to support this constitutional amendment so the measure can pass Congress and be sent to the states for ratification.

Sincerely,



George S. LeMieux
United States Senator

GL/sjw